



# DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

Return to CIA Library

42408

SUNDAY Morning October 17th, 1948  
SUNDAY Evening October 17th, 1948  
MONDAY Morning October 18th, 1948

SUNDAY Morning October 17th, 1948

Hostilities flare up in Palestine.  
Reaction of the Arabic press.

The Arabic press shows great excitement over the flare up of hostilities in Palestine. The news is splashed across the front page and special prominence is given to the Egyptian claim that two Jewish planes and all the Jewish tanks used in the fight at Negov were destroyed, and that 500 Jews were killed and many more were wounded.

Al Misri publishes an editorial in which it says that the Jews have launched their offensive at Negov in order to give the world the false impression that they are strong. The Jews are encouraged to violate the truce because they see that the Arabs are respecting it and that the Security Council is shutting its eyes to the things they are doing. "Do we have to continue to respect the truce?" asks Al Misri. "Is it not time we put the Jews in their place? We must take a quick decision for the situation does not bear hesitation".

Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, is quoted by Al Misri as saying that the Arabs intend to resume fighting on a large scale if the Jews do not stop violating the truce.

Arab Affairs. Al Misri alleges  
Weizman tried to sell Brooklyn bridge  
to the American government.

Al Misri's New York correspondent quotes the New York Times as saying that Mr Weizman, the well-known Zionist, had left for Palestine and that he had a long talk with President Truman last time he paid a visit to Washington. The correspondent then goes on to say that Weizman has submitted a memorandum to the American government urging it to support Jewish claims in Negov. The Zionist gentleman alleged in his report that Negov is rich in Uranium and oil and that the Jews are prepared to let American firms exploit that desert. He further promised that the Jews intend to build underground defence posts all over Negov to be used in hampering Russian advance should Russia attack the Middle East.

- 2 -

SUNDAY Morning October 17th, 1948

The Jews also intend to build a harbour at Nogev which would be used instead of Suez. The whole scheme would cost about \$ 500,000,000 said Weizman in his alleged memorandum.

The correspondent concludes by saying that the American government rejected this fantastic scheme and elected to support Bernadotte's recommendations instead.

-----  
Britain and America urge Iraq to  
let its oil reach Haifa.

Al Misri's Paris correspondent quotes "a high diplomatic source" as saying that there are negotiations at present between England and America on the one hand and Iraq on the other with a view to persuading the latter to allow Iraqi oil to reach the port of Haifa. Britain and America gave their solemn promise that the Jews would not get one drop of the Iraqi oil, adds the correspondent who goes on to say that he asked Naguib Al Rawy Bey who is in Paris at present if the news was correct, and was told that it was but Iraq would never permit a single drop of oil to reach Haifa so long as there is such a thing as a Jewish state in Palestine.

-----  
Unification of currency among  
the Arab countries.

Al Ahram reports that M. Van Zeeland, the Belgian economic expert, came to Egypt recently at the invitation of the Arab League and that he discussed with Tewfik Al Sowedi Bey, the former Iraqi Premier and head of the economic committee of the Arab League, the question of unifying currency among the Arab countries. They agreed that such unification is possible and should be put into effect, says the daily.

-----  
The Egyptian State Council says  
Suez Canal Company ~~should observe~~ the  
provisions of the Companies law.

Al Misri reports that the Egyptian State Council has advised the authorities that the Suez Canal Company should be made to observe the provisions of the Companies law and that if it refuses to do so, legal action should be taken against it.

The Egyptian Ministry of Commerce communicated the decision of the State Council to the Company and told it that unless by November 5th, 1948, the company can prove that it complied with the law, the Public Prosecutor would be instructed to prosecute.

- 3 -

SUNDAY Morning October 17th, 1948.

"Between the American Ambassador  
and the representative of Al Mussamarat".

Under the above heading, Mussamarat Al Guoib, the unimportant Wafdist weekly writes: "The new American Ambassador, Mr Stanton Griffis, stated at his first press conference that he was a businessman and not a diplomat, and that his outlook towards things would be that of a businessman and not that of a diplomat. Our representative asked him that day: 'What is the difference between a businessman's outlook and a diplomat's?'. The Ambassador replied: 'This is a difficult question and I shall postpone the answer. At any rate a businessman wants to consolidate the economic relations. America merely wishes to help Egypt and the Middle East countries'.

"Our reporter then asked him: 'But reviving the economic resources of a country has always been the pretext of the imperialists. Britain has established her empire on the pretext of wishing to revive the resources of the backward countries'. The Ambassador became very angry and kept on repeating the same old story which we hear from Americans that their country is a country of angels who would never dream of exploiting or colonising other countries.

"As a matter of fact the choice of a businessman as an American Ambassador to Egypt is not a mere coincidence. America is planning a "Marshallite" economic policy for the Middle East which is the natural continuation of Western Europe and the Mediterranean sea which have been put by the Marshall plan within the elastic orbit of the American empire. (It is not clear what the magazine wants to say, but the article is translated literally).

"The attitude of the Arab countries towards the Saudi oil encouraged America to draw up such a plan. Much to their surprise, the Americans found that the presence of the oil companies in the Arab countries and the material gains which the Arab governments got from them, serve America's interests and make the Arabs hesitate a hundred times before they adopt an open and effective hostile policy towards America.

"The Americans are now sure that the view expressed by the British spy Lawrence of Arabia that gold is an effective factor in shaping Arab policy, is very true".

-----

- 4 -

SUNDAY Evening October 17th, 1948.

Al Zaman comments on Jewish violation of the truce. Azzam Pasha criticised for "docile policy".

Under the headline "who is the loser" Al Zaman, the influential evening daily, says that the Jews are violating the truce openly and that the U.N. Observers and the Security Council are doing nothing to stop Jewish aggression.

"The Arab League authorities continue to make boring statements" complains Al Zaman. "Their statements may be full of big words which are at the same time meaningless and meant to cover up their weakness. We fail to understand what the Secretary General of the League meant by saying that he had sent a report to the League members about the latest Jewish violations of the truce so that they might consult each other on the policy which they ought to pursue. Bless our souls! What does the Pasha mean? Does he not know what policy should be pursued? Has the League's Political Committee been meeting time after time without agreeing on the policy which should be pursued in the event of the Jews violating the truce?"

"Gentlemen of the League: This is not a way to deal with problems. Never was it recorded in history that a war was won by statements. The only solution is to hit, and hit hard. We must pay no attention to the threats of the Security Council. Let it apply military or economic sanctions against us. It would be better for us to face the whole West and lose the battle than lose the war against the contemptible Zionist gangs alone as the result of the present absurd Arab policy".

Al Balagh prints the news concerning the latest Jewish violation of the truce under screaming headlines and says that the Jews have launched their offensive because they see that the U.N. respects faits accomplis. They hope to occupy part or whole of Negov so that the U.N. may rule that seeing that the Jews having occupied Negov they may stay there.

-----  
Egyptian politics.

Al Balagh, the Wafdist daily, says that there is a strong likelihood that the Liberal Constitutionals may withdraw from the present Cabinet unless the vacant Cabinet seat is occupied by either Ahmed Attia Pasha or Rashwan Mahfouz Pasha.

President of the Liberal Constitutional party, Hoykal Pasha told Al Zaman that he was in favour of the resumption of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations for treaty revision "provided they are resumed on a new basis".

-----

- 5 -

MONDAY October 18th, 1948

# The Palestinian War.

The Arabic press continues to treat Jewish violation of the truce as top story of the day. Al Misri says that the Jews were defeated, that fighting flared up on all fronts, including Jerusalem, and that no less than twenty tanks and ten lorries were blasted by Egyptian bombers yesterday.

The daily, however, admits indirectly that the Jews have gained some ground by their attack in the South. It says that the Egyptians informed the U.N. representative in Tel Aviv that the Egyptian army would cease fire on the condition that the Jews withdrew to their former positions.

-----  
Ambassador Griffis' activities in  
Beirut on behalf of the Arab refugees  
reported by Al Ahram.

Al Ahram prints a story written by its Beirut correspondent and dated October 17th in which he quotes His Excellency Mr Griffis as saying among other things that unless the refugees receive immediate relief they may die of hunger and cold.

Al Misri reports that the Higher Council for aiding Arab refugees has met and estimated that the Arab refugees need one and half million pounds monthly to support and that the Arab countries should pay LE 75,000 monthly towards the cost of their maintenance while the rest of the money should be paid by the nations of the world seeing that the Arab refugees problem is a question which concerns humanity at large.

-----  
Will Mr Marshall visit Egypt?

Al Ikhwani's Paris correspondent alleges that Mr Marshall will visit Turkey and Egypt before he returns home from Greece. He will interview Egyptian and Arab leaders to ascertain their views on the formation of a Middle East bloc and the application of the Marshall plan in the Arab countries, says the paper.

-----  
Travel ban on the desert road.

Al Misri publishes the text of a military law issued yesterday banning travel by the Cairo-Alexandria desert road. No reason is given for this drastic decision.

-----  
Nehru accepts League's invitation.

It is interesting to note Al Ahram's story that Mr Nehru, the Hindustani Premier, has accepted the Arab League's invitation to remain in Cairo on his way to India for a few days as the League's guest. The Pakistani Prime Minister received a similar invitation from the Arab League but he has not yet replied, reports Al Ahram.